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PTQ7464

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ACTION PRM-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SCT-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/052W

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R 121456Z JAN 95  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0007  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 000090

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREF, PHUM, MOPS, PGOV, RW, BU  
SUBJECT: RPA ATTACK ON IDP CAMP

REF: A) IIR 6 825 0182 95  
B) IIR 6 825 0186 95  
C) IIR 6 825 0188 95  
D) BUJUMBURA 107

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. KIGALI SUSPECTS THAT REFS A-C ON THE RPA ATTACK ON  
THE BUSANZE IDP CAMP AND REF D, REPEATED TO US FROM THE  
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DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 11, CROSSED PATHS IN THE ETHER.

WE THINK THAT THESE REPORTS FOCUS ON ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INCIDENT AS REPORTED THROUGH THE SEPARATE OPTICS OF UNAMIR AND RPA INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS (REFS A - C) AND RWANDAN REFUGEES IN BURUNDI (REF D).

3. INQUIRIES ABOUT ADDITIONAL RPA MOVES AGAINST IDP CAMPS HAVE YIELDED NOTHING BEYOND THAT WHICH WE REPORTED IN REFS A TO C; TO WIT, THAT A ROGUE OPERATION LAUNCHED BY AN RPA UNIT AGAINST THE IDP CAMP IN BUSANZE RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 16 CIVILIANS AND THE WOUNDING OF 36 OTHERS. FOUR RPA OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT. BOTH UNAMIR AND RPA OFFICERS WHO TRAVELLED TO THE SCENE HAVE CORROBORATED THE ATTACK AND ITS TOLL.

4. THERE IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO NSHILI IDP CAMP IN RWANDA (REF D), BUT THERE IS A VILLAGE OF THAT NAME NOT FAR FROM THE BUSANZE CAMP. WE THINK THAT THE RWANDAN REFUGEES CITED IN BUJUMBURA'S MESSAGE WERE DESCRIBING THE ATTACK ON BUSANZE. THE RPA HAS NO HELICOPTERS, BUT UNAMIR HELICOPTERS CARRYING UNAMIR COMMANDER TOUSIGNANT AMONG OTHERS, ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER THE SHOOTING HAD STOPPED.

5. IN OUR VIEW, THE DEATH TOLL OF 750-1,000 CLAIMED BY REFUGEES IN BURUNDI IS HIGHLY EXAGGERATED. TOUSIGNANT AGREES, OBSERVING THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN "IMPOSSIBLE" TO HAVE KILLED 750 PERSONS AND HIDDEN THE BODIES IN THE FOUR HOUR PERIOD BETWEEN THE SHOOTING AND HIS ARRIVAL AT BUSANZE. THIS DOES NOT TRIVIALIZE WHAT DID OCCUR.

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WHATEVER THE IDP DEATH TOLL MAY BE, ATTACKS OF THIS NATURE POSE A SERIOUS DANGER. THE CLASH AT BUSANZE -- PROVOKED BY INTERHAMWE OR NOT, SANCTIONED BY THE RPA HIGH COMMAND OR NOT -- IS THE SORT OF INCIDENT THAT COMPLICATES REFUGEE REPATRIATION MOST. IT FEEDS THE FEARS OF REFUGEES ACROSS THE BORDERS AND PLAYS DIRECTLY INTO THE HANDS OF POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AMONG THE REFUGEES -- MANY OF THE FORMER INVOLVED IN THE VERIFIED MASS KILLINGS OF LAST SPRING -- WHO HAVE USED A SUCCESSFUL COMBINATION OF RUMOR, PROPAGANDA AND

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INTIMIDATION TO KEEP THE REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS UNCLASSIFIED

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